

October 1, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) today announced that he has secured more than \$24.8 million in the FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Act (H.R. 3183) to improve infrastructure along the Ohio River. This legislation passed the House today by a vote of 308-114. It is expected to pass the U.S. Senate and to be signed into law next week.

Congressman Altmire worked with several other members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation to secure this funding.

“Several of western Pennsylvania’s largest industries depend on the safe and efficient navigation of our region’s rivers,” Altmire said. “This is why it is critically important for us to continue investing in improvements to our rivers’ infrastructure. By supporting the ongoing effort to strengthen the Emsworth Locks and Dams and develop a sustainable navigation plan for the Ohio River, this funding will help to ensure that the Ohio River will continue to be a valuable asset for local businesses.”

Congressman Altmire helped to secure \$23.6 million for the emergency replacement and repair of the Emsworth Locks and Dams, which are in critical condition. Three significant features – the scour protection, vertical lift gates, and gate operating machinery – have been identified as having a high risk of failure. Because the traffic locking through Emsworth represents a savings of \$300 million a year compared to other modes of transportation, such a failure could be catastrophic to southwestern Pennsylvania industry and commerce. Altmire has helped to secure more than \$68 million for this project in the past two years.

Congressman Altmire also helped to secure more than \$1.25 million for the Upper Ohio River Navigation Study -- which is being carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Upper Ohio River navigation system currently has two problems – its structural condition and inadequate lock capacity for modern navigation tows. The Upper Ohio River Navigation Study will review alternatives to address these problems by developing an optimal plan for maintaining safe, reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable navigation. This study is expected to be completed in three to five years and will ultimately help to reduce the cost of doing business at the Port of Pittsburgh. Altmire has helped to secure more than \$6.5 million for this project in the past two years.

□ “The Corps of Engineers remains dedicated to working with Congress, local governments, and all interested stakeholders to energize our economy and strengthen our security,” said Colonel Mike Crall, Pittsburgh District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. □ “Thanks to the vision of Congressman Altmire and his southwestern Pennsylvania congressional colleagues, this funding represents an excellent step toward those goals.”